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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Community Transportation Enhancement grants available to Idaho communities**

(Coeur d'Alene...July 23). Communities, counties and tribal governments throughout the state may apply for funding to enhance community transportation corridors through the planting of trees and shrubs. These Community Transportation Enhancement (CTE) grants are available through the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) Urban and Community Forestry Program in partnership with the Idaho Transportation Department.

According to David Stephenson, Community Forestry Coordinator for IDL, "We are pleased to offer grant funds that not only enhance the character and beauty of Idaho Communities, but also make them healthier places to live while saving money in the long run. Trees help reduce stormwater runoff from roadways, decrease road maintenance costs by shading them against heat and UV radiation, and conserve fuel in vehicles normally lost through evaporation and air conditioning when parked in areas without shade. Add that to their ability to improve air and water quality, lower stress and increase patronage in business districts, and these grants can really make a positive difference in a community."

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Funds are available to all Idaho communities, counties and tribal governments having an interest in developing or improving a local Community Forestry program. To be eligible for consideration, a project must be located on public land (federal, state or local government owned).

Under the CTE Grant Program eligible applicants may receive up to \$30,000 for community entry-way plantings, landscaping around community welcome signs, street tree and downtown plantings, and other landscaping that enhances surface transportation corridors. Communities receiving a grant from the CTE program must provide matching funds amounting to at least 10 percent of the grant amount. A total of up to \$172,000 is available for 2009 through this program.

Applications for the grants are available on-line at the IDL website: [www.idl.idaho.gov](http://www.idl.idaho.gov) (click on "Community Forestry" & then "CF Grants"), and will be accepted through September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. For complete information on the grants or to obtain an application, contact IDL at 208-666-8622 or 800-432-4648 / [communitytrees@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:communitytrees@idl.idaho.gov) .